



Chris Owens
Director

Election season is coming. Once again we hear voters may not go to the polls because they believe their vote *doesn't matter*.

The story of women and voting is one of a long determined battle which took more than 70 years to win in the United States.

We forget married women could not be teachers and single women could not own property. Women's issues and women's health are often at the center of public policy: A legacy of progress worth protecting and a base for our daughters to build upon.

The right to vote came to women not so long ago. My grandmother was a teenager when her mother was able to vote for the first time.

It is our vote that can make the difference. Don't let it be the vote you didn't cast.

CAPTURING OUR MUSE

Making Inspiration Work For Us

I freely admit I've not read her book, nor have I seen the movie. But everyone RAVES about Elizabeth Gilbert and *Eat, Pray, Love*. One of her recent interviews aired while I was driving and caught my attention. Her response to the question about how she began writing again after her unexpected huge success was: She changed her relationship with her muse.

Gilbert confessed apprehension when preparing to move on after *Eat, Pray, Love*. She found the prospect of new projects not meet those phenomenally high standards intimidating. Her apprehension lifted after a friend talked about his muse.

Gilbert's insight came from discussions with colleagues who addressed their muses (inspirations) as outside entities; separate beings which could be summoned, bargained with, entreated, encouraged

or ignored. One went so far as to tell his inconvenient muse ... "Come back during office hours."

Gilbert's approach is an interesting somewhat historical perspective on muses and inspiration. Are her insights merely an "artist thing"? Or is it a way to embrace life, decision-making and a willingness to take risks instead of waiting for perfection? Do we spend too much time waiting for inspiration, the perfect answers or the right time?

Gilbert claims changing her relationship with her muse allowed her more control over her life and her creativity. She was able to step back, analyze, and move forward when she was ready.

Maybe what she is showing us is a path for taking more control of our lives: step back, analyze, assess and — move forward.

October Observances:

October is a busy month, building momentum toward the holiday season. Of special interest to women:

[Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#)
[Speak My Name](#)
[Breast Cancer Awareness Month](#)

Check these locations for more news:

- [OFW Calendar](#)
- [Announcements](#) Page for local happenings
- [OFW Louisville on Facebook](#)

Fall Events, News & Activities:

Family Scholar House: 14th Annual Luncheon
—October 26th

Kentucky Foundation for Women: Kentucky feminist social change artists interested [in applying for this workshop](#) - contact Erin Fletcher, Hopscotch House Interim Coordinator: email erin@kfw.org or call 562-0045 for application. DEADLINE: 5pm Oct. 31st

University of Louisville Women's Center:
Annual Elizabeth Cady Stanton Luncheon
—November 16th (852-8976)

Coalition for the Homeless: Race to End Homelessness
—November 5th (589-0190)

**GET OUT THE
VOTE!**
November 8th





October: Domestic Violence Awareness

Center for Women & Families: New Housing

In Kentucky, 1 of 3 women suffers from domestic violence in her lifetime.

Abuse is not acceptable!

These 5 forms of abuse are associated with significant increased risks of lethality.

These are not the only risk factors, nor do they predict fatalities.

- ◆ Used, or threatened to use, a gun, knife, or other weapon against victim. (20.2 times)
- ◆ Threatened to kill or injure victim. (14.9 times)
- ◆ Tried to strangle the victim. (9.9 times)
- ◆ Is violently or constantly jealous. (9.2 times)
- ◆ Has forced the victim to have sex. (7.6 times)

NOTE: All of these risk factors may take place away from the eyes of any witnesses and leave no visible signs.

What can you do?

Take risk factors seriously.
Do not minimize—Do not excuse—Call for help.

Myth 1: After threats are made and not immediately carried out, future threats can be ignored. (The victim is not in real danger.) —**False.** The more often a threatening behavior is repeated the more comfortable and real it is to the abuser. Of the 5 risk factors, threats against the victim have the greatest increased risk for lethality.

Myth 2: Strangulation should be identified as “choking.” —**False.** Choking is an accidental hazard. Strangulation is a deliberate, extremely dangerous act.

If abuse is happening to you or someone you know, call for help.

[Center for Women & Families](#)
[LMPD - Keep Louisville Safe](#)
[Domestic Violence Intake Center](#)

On October 7, 2011, the [Center for Women and Families](#) held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of 22 housing units for people who have experienced domestic violence.

U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth, D-Ky., representatives of Kentucky Housing Corp. (which helped finance the project), [Housing Partnership Inc.](#) (a nonprofit builder of affordable housing) joined Marta M. Miranda, the Center’s President/CEO and advocates for the ceremony.

The Center’s 22 units are part of KDVA (Kentucky Domestic Violence Association) Homes, an \$8.8 million scattered-site supportive housing project with units also located in Paducah, Murray, and Morehead. Six families have moved into the energy efficient apartments. All of the units have prospective tenants.



Marta M. Miranda,
President/CEO Center
for Women & Families

e-EPOs: Helping Domestic Violence Victims

“When a victim is being threatened with abuse, time can be everything,” said Mayor Greg Fischer. “This [new electronic system](#) is vastly more efficient and is a huge step forward for public safety in our city.”

Individuals seeking a domestic violence or emergency protection order (EPO) previously faced a lengthy, inefficient process that relied on paper copies which often caused the victim to wait a long time for judicial review and approval. With the new system, a petition is sent electronically to a judge who can provide an electronic signature and approve the order within minutes.

Now the EPO is electronically sent to the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office where it is transferred into the Law Enforcement Information Network of Kentucky, making the EPO available to law enforcement via mobile data computers.

The e-EPO system was funded with \$170,000 in federal Recovery Act dollars through the Violence Against Women Act. “Costing more than \$8 billion every year in medical care, mental health services, and lost

productivity, domestic violence is a national crisis and a personal tragedy,” said Congressman John Yarmuth, of Louisville. “But, with this new electronic system, we will help ensure that victims receive the protection they need when they need it.”

Victims seeking safety and protection orders visit the [Domestic Violence Intake Center](#) at the Hall of Justice, which is open 24/7. There, they meet with a deputy circuit clerk who sends their information and request for a protection order electronically to a judge. “... this technology makes it possible for Emergency Protection Orders to be available to law enforcement before the victim even leaves the building,” said Circuit Court Clerk David Nicholson.

Since the new e-system went “live” on August 22, nearly 400 EPOs and more than 110 Domestic Violence Summonses have been issued electronically.

[\[from: October 11, 2011 Mayor Fischer, News Release\]](#)



About OFW

The Office for Women (OFW) vision is to create an interconnected community of champions working to improve the status of all women by bringing individual community members and organizations together to enhance collaboration, communication and coordination. Our focus is advocacy and public policy in the areas of Women’s Health and Safety; Economic Well-being and Empowerment; and Investing in Girls and Young Women.



"2011 Project Homeless Connect/Stand Down" was held October 19th.

Project Homeless Connect/Stand Down is an annual one-day outreach project. Louisville Metro Community Services and Revitalization, Robley Rex Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and partners from multiple community service organizations come together in one place to address the needs of the homeless during a single visit.

This event took place due to the support of hundreds of volunteers, who came to the Dismas Campus location (St. Anne's) on Algonquin Pkwy.

Each year several hundred people are served. Each year OFW interviews women being served at Homeless Connect about their circumstances, ability access to services and what they see as the cause of their homelessness.



Zumba® Party

"Ditch the Workout—Join the Party"™

Sunday, Oct 30
@ 2:00 - 4:00 pm
1620 Bank St
Louisville KY 40203

Zumba Fitness and Women for Habitat are promoting fitness and FUNdraising for sponsorship of affordable housing with Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville.

Ellen and friends will lead two hours of dance fitness to exciting Latin and world music. Join Us!

\$15 donation at the door.

Additional Information:

- Costume optional – prizes for best costume
- Halloween party for kids (supervised) during Zumbathon

Wear comfortable clothing and non-tread shoes (sneakers). Water and healthy snacks provided by Women for Habitat.



Save the Date!

SIN BY SILENCE FILM SCREENING AND
PANEL DISCUSSION

Sponsored by: PEACC, The Mary Byron Project, and the Brandeis School of Law

Diversity Committee

When: Tuesday, November 8, 2011, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Where: Room 275, Brandeis School of Law, University of Louisville Belknap Campus

